

What's New in the MPDC

JUNE 10, 2002

CHIEF RAMSEY ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT CHIEF, OTHER PROMOTIONS

Chief Ramsey this past week announced several changes in the MPDC's command ranks, including the promotion of Michael Fitzgerald as the new Executive Assistant Chief, the second in command of the Department overseeing all police operations. EAC Fitzgerald is a 31-year veteran of the MPDC, who since 1998 served as

Chief Ramsey said additional Command staff appointments – including new commanders for the Second District and the Special Operations Division – will be announced shortly.

Assistant Chief in charge of Regional Operations Command-East, where he oversaw development of a number of innovative crime-fighting and community-partnership strategies in the Sixth and Seventh Police districts. Former EAC Terrance Gainer will be sworn in shortly as Chief of the US Capitol Police. Replacing Fitzgerald at ROC-East is Assistant Chief Jose Acosta, promoted from Commander of the Special Operations Division. A 32-year MPDC veteran, Acosta, former Commander of the Third

District, is the first Latino to hold the rank of Assistant Chief in the MPDC. In addition, Ramsey promoted Peter Newsham from Commander of the Second District to Assistant Chief in charge of the Office of Professional Responsibility, which investigates alleged misconduct by MPDC members. Newsham joined the MPDC in 1989 and quickly rose through the ranks, earning his law degree while he served as 2D Commander. He replaces Assistant Chief Kim Dine, who becomes Chief of the Frederick (Md.) Police Department next month. Read the news release, which includes links to the promotees' biographies, at:

For a detailed look at the MPDC's organizational chart, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/org/orgchart.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

DISTRICT AIMS TO IMPROVE BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

In an effort to reduce bicycle and pedestrian crashes, the MPDC will begin enforcing traffic rules at 25 high-crash intersections in DC during a week-long enforcement wave that begins June 10. MPDC officers will be giving warnings and citations to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians who

The initial results of another traffic safety program – Smooth Operator – are in. During the first of four week-long enforcement waves last month, MPDC officers issued 3,223 citations for various aggressive driving offenses, and another 5,538 motorists received automated enforcement tickets for speeding and running red lights. Read up on Smooth Operator at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtm

violate District traffic rules, such as failing to yield to pedestrians, walking against the signal and riding a bicycling on the sidewalk in the Central Business District.

On average, there are 13,000 traffic crashes every year in the District; 250 of these involve bicyclists and 550 involve pedestrians. Approximately one-third of all people killed in traffic crashes in the District each year are pedestrians. The week-long enforcement wave is part of the Safe Streets campaign, sponsored by MPDC and the District Department of Transportation. Read more, including the targeted intersections, at:

The Safe Streets campaign began in May, when volunteers distributed information cards to thousands of people at the high-crash intersections. View the card, which contains the basic rights and responsibilities of bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists, on the Washington Area Bicyclist Association Web site at:

65.108.107.53/new/help/safestreets.phpofficer.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

NEWEST MPDC GRADUATES STAND TALL ... ON FOUR LEGS INSTEAD OF TWO

The MPDC welcomed the newest members of the force during graduation ceremonies on Friday, June 7 – five canines who join the Department's elite Special Operations Division. Over the past year, the MPDC has completely overhauled its policies and procedures on the use of canines, including the adoption of a "bark and hold" approach with suspects. These reforms have necessitated both new training and, in some cases, the acquisition of new dogs. Congratulations to Ofc. James Corcoran and partner Arys; Ofc. Sean Corcoran and partner Bary, Ofc. Daniel Jones and partner Dusty; Ofc. Emmanuel Smith and partner Aldo, and Ofc. Gregory Plunkett and partner Czar. Arys, Bary, Dusty and Aldo are new patrol canines; Czar is a new addition to the Search and Recovery unit. Taking "Top Dog" honors during training was Arys and his handler, Ofc. Corcoran. Learn more about the Special Operations Division at:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/org/specialops.shtm

HELP A CHILD THIS SUMMER ... SUPPORT CAMP BROWN

While many youngsters in DC will be enjoying camp, school or other activities this summer, other children – particularly those who are less well off – will have few structured activities. The situation could be especially acute this year, as the DC Public Schools recently announced cutbacks in the number of summer school students. To help fill the void, the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Clubs will be offering a range of programs and activities. The Clubs' premier summer activity is Camp Brown, a 168-acre site along the Potomac River in Scotland, Md., 80 miles from DC. Over eight weeks each summer, the residential Camp provides 1,250 DC youngsters ages 7 to 12 with educational, athletic and social programs away from the heat and intensity of the city. DC residents can help send a youngster to Camp Brown this summer by recommending a needy child to their local police district or by making a donation to the MPBGC. Learn more at:

www.mpbgc.org

Another worthwhile program supported strongly by the MPDC is DC Special Olympics and its annual Law Enforcement Torch Run. And for the fourth year in a row, the MPDC has received the Special Olympics' "Top Gun" award by raising approximately \$23,000 through the purchase of more than 1,500 Torch Run t-shirts by MPDC personnel. Hundreds of them participated in the Torch Run on June 7 from the US Capitol to Fort McNair. Details on the Law Enforcement Torch Run are at:

www.specialolympics.org/torchrun/

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The MPDC will participate in an oversight hearing, held by the DC Council's Judiciary and Public Works Committees, on the Department's use of closed circuit television (CCTV). The hearing takes place Thursday, June 13, at 12 noon, in the Wilson Building.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

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